

**REMARKS**

Applicants have converted an inadvertent clerical error on page 67. As support for the correction, Applicants have provided the following explanation:

The present English specification contains the following statement on from page 66, line 21 to page 67, line 12 in respect of [2] Desulfurization reaction-rate constant (Ks):

"The rate constant of a reaction rate equation which gives the 1.3 order of reaction with respect to decrease in the sulfur content of the product oil (Sp) is determined as a desulfurization reaction rate constant (Ks). - - - - Sf represents sulfur content in feedstock oil (% by weight), Sp represents sulfur content in product oil (% by weight), and LHSV represents liquid hourly space velocity ( $\text{hr}^{-1}$ )."

This statement can be expressed by a numerical equation,

$$-\frac{d\text{Sp}}{dt} = \text{Ks} \times \text{Sp}^{1.3}$$

and this equation leads to the following formula:

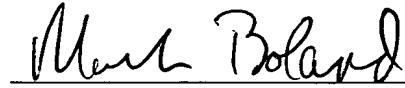
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Desulfurization reaction rate constant (Ks)} &= \\ [1/(\text{Sp})^{(1.3-1)} - 1/(\text{Sf})^{(1.3-1)}] &\times (\text{LHSV}) \times 1/(1.3-1). \end{aligned}$$

Accordingly, it is believed that the proposed correction is allowable as that of a clerical error.

Preliminary Amendment  
National Stage of PCT/JP2003/016197

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Boland  
Mark Boland  
Registration No. 32,197

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
**23373**  
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 16, 2005